

Note on an Apparently New Species of *Colotis*
Hübner (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) from
South West Africa

By C. G. C. DICKSON, M.Sc.*

A single male specimen of a *Colotis* which does not seem to answer to any known species was captured by Mr. C. W. Wykeham in June, 1977, when he was serving on the South West African Northern Border, at the Rua Cana Falls. This butterfly shows affinity in certain respects to *C. agoye bowkeri* (Trimen) and *C. eris eris* Klug, but also differs very markedly from both these species. It is apparently more closely related to *eris*. The male genitalia have been dissected and several differences have been found in comparison with those of the other two species — in, for instance, the uncus, valves and aedeagi. The genitalia are closer to those of *eris*. In the opinion of Dr. C. B. Cottrell, to whom the dissections have been shown, the points of difference concerned are of considerable significance. In the case of the new insect, the aedeagus itself is remarkably small.

The present insect is pale creamy-white on the *upperside*, with the forewing apical patch of a light fawn tone (of much the same tint as that in the male of *eris*, as regards the separate markings therein) and with a rather faint shifting violaceous lustre in this general area; and black marking and scaling, in all wings, as shown in the accompanying figure. On the *underside*, the greater portion of the forewing is creamy-white and the subapical portion pinkish-cream, with the dark inner bordering of the apical patch of the upperside showing through to a limited extent; while the hindwing is of a rather less deep pinkish-cream coloration than the forewing subapical area. A large part of the costa is distinctly edged with bright orange and some dull orange coloration is apparent along vein 1b and in area 1c, adjoining vein 1b. The underside is obviously of a "dry-season" type. A formal description of this butterfly will be drawn up if further representative specimens are procured; and the intention is to name it after its discoverer.

The following relevant observations have been furnished by Mr. Wykeham himself: — "During May and June, 1977, I made a field survey of the butterflies of Rua Cana, which lies on the Cunene at the point where this river meets the border between South West Africa and Angola. It was noticeable that as the dry winter season set in the butterflies became more dependent upon the moisture of the river and by mid-June collecting was only good within a few hundred metres of the river.

"It was in this area that I found a few male *Colotis celimene pholoe* (Wallengren), and after taking a few male examples, I made an attempt to locate the females. It seemed most likely that I would find one among the many white Pierids feeding on the low flowering scrub along the river, and here I found the Pierid which is shown in the photograph. No further specimens could be found."

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Thanks are due to Dr. C. B. Cottrell and Dr. E. C. G. Pinhey for kindly giving, in each case, their own views concerning the above butterfly; and to Baron de Worms for ascertaining that no specimen which matches it could be found in the British Museum (Nat. Hist).

Notes and Observations

BOOK TALK. — One of the rarest, taxonomically important, and most interesting of entomological books, is A. H. Haworth's *Lepidoptera Britannica*. This somewhat dumpy, unillustrated 8vo., printed on a cheap, poor quality paper, was published in four parts, the first of which appeared in 1803, the last in 1828. Odd parts occasionally come on the market, but the complete work is seldom ever offered for sale. In fact, the book is so rare that in 1859, H. G. Bohn (in Lowndes' *Bibliographer's Manual*) estimated that there were then probably only 50-100 copies in existence.

Especially noteworthy therefore, is item B22 of Messrs. Classey's current catalogue (Special Subject List: Lepidoptera List B), which has all four parts present, with parts 3 and 4 in the *original printed blue paper-covered boards*. The price asked for this bibliographical gem was £400. Several orders were received and the book was bought by Mr. W. De Prins, an Antwerp schoolmaster and editor of the Belgian entomological periodical *Phegea*, who kindly let me examine his latest purchase when I visited him last month. — J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT.

CONSERVATION OF WILD CREATURES AND WILD PLANTS (AMENDMENT) BILL (H.L.). — Many of our readers may be unaware of the threat to their interests posed by the above Bill which has now passed Committee Stage and is to go to the Commons.

This proposes two new Schedules of insects which are to be protected by law. Schedule 3 includes 13 species of butterflies; Schedule 4 includes 73 moths, three bugs, two beetles, 13 dragonflies and 12 Orthopterans.

The Earl of Cranbrook, who is responsible, knows nothing of insects. To him, an egg is an egg, whether it be of an osprey or *pronuba*. He has simply lifted the list of local species about which more information is needed by the Record Centre, which was published some time ago in the *Entomologist's Gazette*.

He proposes that only authorised persons (Schedule 3) or others (Schedule 4) shall be permitted to take or kill more than two specimens in one calendar year in any one 10 kilometre square, provided that they report their action to the Nature Conservancy Commission. This is to cover ova, larvae and pupae, as well as imagines. The N.C.C. consider the Bill unworkable and they have been advised by the Red Book Committee and the B.E.N.H.S. that only three or four of the